

N69-15734
NASA CR-99048

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Bandlimited Image Restoration by Linear
Mean-Square Estimation

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A linear mean-square estimator optimum for data available only on a finite interval is derived for the restoration of images degraded by a system with a bandlimited spread function. The analysis is carried out in one dimension using a prolate spheroidal wavefunction expansion of the image process. If the noise is bandlimited to the same bandwidth as the spread function, the expansion represents the image process with zero mean square error on the entire interval, and the estimate of the geometrical image achieves the same mean-square error as the optimum estimate for data on the infinite interval. The rate at which the estimate converges is discussed and an example presented.



A solution to the image restoration problem using linear mean-square estimation has been presented by Helstrom,¹ who demonstrated that data are available over an infinite interval, Fourier methods could be used to obtain the restoring filter. Slepian has used the linear mean-square method to obtain a restoring filter optimum for data from a system with a stochastic spread function.² His method uses data only over a finite region, but he does not assume that the system spread function is bandlimited. Other authors have recently presented solutions to the restoration problem for systems with bandlimited spread functions.^{3, 4, 5}

In this paper a restoring filter is derived that is optimum for data available only over a finite interval. The analysis is performed in one dimension for simplicity; this imposes no fundamental limitation on the technique. In the special case where the noise is bandlimited to the same bandwidth as the spread function, the optimum filter for data on the finite interval achieves the same minimum mean-square error as the optimum filter for data on the infinite interval.

The analysis makes use of the fact that a bandlimited stationary stochastic process known only over a finite interval can be estimated with zero mean-square error at any point outside the interval. This can be done by expanding the process in a series of prolate spheroidal wave functions (PSWF). A simple proof is given in the Appendix.

1. The Formulation of the Problem

The optical system will be modeled mathematically by the convolutional integral equation

$$J(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(x-x') J_o(x') dx' + N(x). \quad (1.1)$$

$J_o(x)$, the illuminance of the geometrical image, will be taken to be a zero-mean stationary stochastic process with spectral density $\varphi_o(\omega)$. $S(x)$ is the point spread function of the system. The Fourier transform $s(\omega)$ of $S(x)$ is bandlimited to the spatial frequency (ω) interval $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$. The system noise $N(x)$ is also a zero-mean stationary stochastic process in this model. It has spectral density $\varphi_N(\omega)$, and for simplicity it is assumed to be uncorrelated with the geometrical image. This model is discussed by Melstrom.¹

We assume that an experimenter has observed the image-plane illuminance $J(x)$ over the finite interval $(-L/2, L/2)$. His task is to use these data to form an estimate of the geometrical image $J_o(x)$ at some point ξ . He does so by performing a linear operation on the available data that minimizes the mean-square error. Hence, he must find a weighting function $M(\xi, x)$ such that

$$\hat{J}_o(\xi) = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} M(\xi, x') J(x') dx' \quad (1.2)$$

minimizes

$$\epsilon(\xi) = \underline{E} \left[|J_o(\xi) - \hat{J}_o(\xi)|^2 \right]. \quad (1.3)$$

Here \underline{E} denotes mathematical expectation.

At this point we could proceed by formal methods to obtain an integral equation for $M(\xi, x)$. There is, however, an alternative procedure that makes use of the optimum filter for data on the infinite interval derived by Helstrom¹. First it will be necessary to establish some properties of the PSWF's. These are taken directly from Slepian and Pollak.⁶

The PSWF's are solutions of the integral equation⁷

$$\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2} \Omega (x - x')}{\pi (x - x')} \Psi_n(c, x') dx' = \lambda_n(c) \Psi_n(c, x) \quad (1.4)$$

where $c = \Omega L/4$. We will make use of the following two properties of the PSWF's:

PROPERTY I. The PSWF's $\Psi_n(c, x)$ form a complete orthonormal basis for the class of bandlimited functions.

PROPERTY II. The PSWF's $\Psi_n(c, x)$ are orthogonal over the interval $(-L/2, L/2)$ with

$$\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} |\Psi_n(c, x)|^2 dx = \lambda_n(c).$$

They form a complete orthogonal basis for the class of functions square integrable on the x -interval $(-L/2, L/2)$.

the following equation will also be used,⁸

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi_n(c, x) e^{-i\omega x} dx = \begin{cases} i^{-n} (2\pi L/\Omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \lambda_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(c) \Psi_n(c, L\omega/\Omega) & |\omega| \leq \Omega/2 \\ 0 & |\omega| > \Omega/2 \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

2. The Solution for Noise Bandlimited to $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$

If the noise $N(x)$ is bandlimited to the interval $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$, $J(x)$ is from Eq. (1.1) a bandlimited process. Now if $J(x)$ is available only over the finite interval $(-L/2, L/2)$, it can be estimated with zero mean-square error at any point by its PSWF expansion. This is proved in the appendix. Hence

$$\tilde{J}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} J_n \Psi_n(c, x), \quad (2.1)$$

where

$$J_n = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} J(x') \Psi_n(c, x') dx' / \lambda_n(c), \quad (2.2)$$

represents $J(x)$ with zero mean-square error for all x. For the purpose of linear mean-square estimation $\tilde{J}(x)$ is equivalent to $J(x)$. Hence the restoring filter for data on the infinite interval can be applied to (2.1). We have

$$\hat{J}_0(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} M_{\infty}(\xi - x') \tilde{J}(x') dx' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} J_n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} M_{\infty}(\xi - x') \Psi_n(c, x') dx' \quad (2.3)$$

here ⁹

$$M_{\infty}(x) = \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} \frac{s^*(\omega)\varphi_0(\omega)}{|s(\omega)|^2\varphi_0(\omega) + \varphi_N(\omega)} e^{i\omega x} d\omega/2\pi. \quad (2.4)$$

let

$$q(\omega) = \frac{s^*(\omega)\varphi_0(\omega)}{|s(\omega)|^2\varphi_0(\omega) + \varphi_N(\omega)}. \quad (2.5)$$

using Eq. (1.5) and the convolution relation for Fourier transforms,

Eq. (2.3) can be simplified to

$$\hat{J}_0(\xi) = (2\pi L/\Omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n^{\frac{1}{2}}(c) M_n(\xi) J_n \quad (2.6)$$

$$\text{here } M_n(\xi) = \left[i^{-n}/\lambda_n(c) \right] \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} q(\omega) \Psi_n(c, L\omega/\Omega) e^{i\omega\xi} d\omega/2\pi. \quad (2.7)$$

The minimum mean square error achieved by this estimate is

$$\epsilon = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_0(\omega) d\omega/2\pi - \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} \frac{|\varphi_0(\omega)s^*(\omega)|^2}{\varphi_0(\omega)|s(\omega)|^2 + \varphi_N(\omega)} d\omega/2\pi \quad (2.8)$$

this can be verified by substituting Eq. (2.6) into Eq. (1.3). Note that in the analysis it was not necessary to assume that $J_0(x)$ itself was band-limited. Also, Eq. (2.8) is (as it must be from the analysis) the minimum mean-square error achieved by $M_{\infty}(x)$ operating on $J(x)$. ¹⁰

The fact that ϵ is independent of ξ suggests that Eq. (2.6) could be used to estimate the illuminance of the geometrical image in the entire plane when image-plane data are available only over the finite interval. The practical difficulties in actually carrying this out are, however, formidable. They will be discussed in section 4.

3. The General Solution and its Mean Square Error

When the noise term in Eq. (1.1) is not bandlimited to $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$, the series of Eq. (2.1) no longer represents $J(x)$ outside the interval $(-L/2, L/2)$. It is, however, only the noise term in Eq. (1.1) that is not represented outside the interval $(-L/2, L/2)$. One might suspect from this that Eq. (2.6) is still the optimum estimate. This is in fact correct. It can be established by showing that Eq. (2.6) does indeed still minimize Eq. (1.3). Now, unfortunately, the mean-square error is no longer independent of ξ . It contains a ξ -dependent term that results from the imperfect representation of $N(x)$ outside $(-L/2, L/2)$.

The mean square error can be written in the following form, which displays the contribution of the various terms. The function

$$W(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & |\omega| \leq 1 \\ 0 & |\omega| > 1 \end{cases}$$

is used for notational convenience.

$$\begin{aligned}
\varepsilon(\xi) = & \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} \frac{\varphi_o(\omega)\varphi_N(\omega)}{|s(\omega)|^2 \varphi_o(\omega) + \varphi_N(\omega)} d\omega/2\pi \\
& + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [1 - W(2\omega/\Omega)] \varphi_o(\omega) d\omega/2\pi \\
& + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [1 - W(2\omega/\Omega)] |f(\omega)|^2 \varphi_N(\omega) d\omega/2\pi .
\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where

$$f(\omega) = \frac{2\pi L}{\Omega} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} q(\omega') \Psi_n(c, L\omega'/\Omega) e^{-i\omega'\xi} (d\omega'/2\pi) \Psi_n(c, L\omega/\Omega) . \tag{3.2}$$

Again this result can be derived by substituting Eq. (2.6) into Eq. (1.3) with due regard for the different limits involved. The first term in Eq. (3.1) is the minimum mean-square error achieved when both the geometrical image and the noise are bandlimited to $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$. The second and third terms represent respectively the contributions of the object process spectrum and the noise spectrum outside the bandwidth of the spread function. From Eq. (3.2) the third term is ξ -dependent.

4. Practical Aspects of the Solution

For applications we need to know the rate at which Eq. (2.6) converges, since only a finite number of terms can be evaluated. Unfortunately this rate is strongly dependent on ξ even though the ξ -dependence of the mean square error Eq. (3.1) might be small. This can be seen as follows.

A comparison of Eq. (1.2) and Eq. (2.6) leads to the conclusion that

$$M(\xi, x) = (2\pi L/\Omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(c) M_n(\xi) \Psi_n(c, x). \quad (4.1)$$

If $M(\xi, x)$ is represented with negligible error by N terms in the series (4.1),

$$\hat{J}_{ON}(\xi) = (2\pi L/\Omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^N \lambda_n^{\frac{1}{2}}(c) M_n(\xi) J_n \quad (4.2)$$

must achieve a mean-square error close to the minimum possible error given by Eq. (3.1). Hence consider

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_N(\xi) &= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \left| M(\xi, x) - (2\pi L/\Omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^N \lambda_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(c) M_n(\xi) \Psi_n(c, x) \right|^2 dx \\ &= \frac{2\pi L}{\Omega} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \left| \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} \lambda_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(c) M_n(\xi) \Psi_n(c, x) \right|^2 dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{2\pi L}{\Omega} \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} |M_n(\xi)|^2. \quad (4.3)$$

$\hat{J}_{ON}(\xi)$ is the mean-square error (not to be confused with the statistical mean square error) that results when only N terms are used in Eq. (4.1).

We now want to know when $\delta_N(\xi)$ is small. This is determined by the behavior of $M_n(\xi)$. Now for most applications $q(\omega)$ is a slowly varying function of ω . From Eq. (2.7), then, the gross behavior of $|M_n(\xi)|$ is proportional to

$$\left(1/\lambda_n(c)\right) \left| \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \Psi_n\left(c, \frac{\Omega\omega}{L}\right) e^{i\omega\xi} d\omega/2\pi \right|.$$

But from Eq. (1.5) this is proportional to $\lambda_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(c) |\Psi_n(c, \omega)|$. In Fig. 1 $\lambda_n(c, x)$ is plotted for $c = 8$ for $n = 0, 5,$ and 8 . The behavior of $\Psi_n(c, x)$ is easily understood when we recall that $\lambda_n(c)$ represents the fraction of the total energy in the n -th PSWF that is in the interval $(-L/2, L/2)$.

Oppenheim and Pollak⁶ have shown that for $n < n_{\text{crit}}$, where $n_{\text{crit}} = [2c/\pi]$, $\lambda_n(c) \approx 1$, and for $n > n_{\text{crit}}$, $\lambda_n(c) \approx 0$. This behavior is clearly displayed in Fig. 1. From this we conclude that for $N > n_{\text{crit}}$, $\delta_N(\xi)$ will be small for $|\xi| < L/2$. $\hat{J}_{ON}(\xi)$ will achieve a minimum mean-square error close to the theoretical value given by Eq. (3.1) for the same N and range of ξ .

or $|\xi| > L/2$ terms of increasing order will be necessary.

5. An Example

To test the solution 1024 data points in the interval $(-1, 1)$ were computed by first convolving the geometrical image function

$$J_0(x) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left\{ \exp[-(x-M)^2/2\sigma^2] + \exp[-(x+M)^2/2\sigma^2] \right\} \quad (5.1)$$

with a spread function for a slit-diffracted image. The Fourier transform of the spread function is

$$s(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1-2|\omega|/\Omega & |\omega| \leq \Omega/2 \\ 0 & |\omega| > \Omega/2 \end{cases} \quad (5.2)$$

independent, zero-mean gaussian random variates, N_k and $N_{k'}$ were then added according to the formula

$$J_k = [(J_{0k} * S_k + N_k)^2 + N_{k'}^2]^{1/2}. \quad (5.3)$$

(The asterisk means convolution.) The convolution was carried out by using the Cooley-Tukey Fourier transform algorithm on a CDC 3600 digital computer. The normal variates were computed from a pseudo-random number sequence by standard methods. Data so constructed violate our initial assumptions of stationarity and additive noise. The data are, however, non-negative and serve to represent a simple geometrical

page.

The coefficients J_n were calculated using Simpson's rule for $n = 0$ through 8 with $c = 8$. The PSWF's were computed by using a Legendre polynomial expansion with tabulated coefficients from Stratton et al.¹² The PSWF's were normalized to correspond to Slepian and Pollak's definitions.⁶ The eigenvalues $\lambda_n(c)$ are tabulated.¹³

To evaluate the weights $M_n(\xi)$, $\varphi_0(\omega)$ and $\varphi_N(\omega)$ must be specified. In the absence of any prior information they can be taken to be constant on the interval $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$.¹⁴ With these assumptions, by Eq. (2.5),

$$q(\omega) = \frac{1 - 2|\omega|/\Omega}{(1 - 2|\omega|/\Omega)^2 + B} \quad (5.4)$$

where B is a constant that depends on the signal-to-noise ratio.¹⁵ Now from Eq. (2.6) $M_n(\xi)$ is just $i^{-n}/\lambda_n(c)$ times the inverse Fourier transform of $q(\omega)\Psi_n(c, \omega)$.

With data on the interval $(-1, 1)$ and $c = \Omega L/4 = 8$, $\Omega = 16$. By using these parameters the weights $M_n(\xi)$ were calculated for $n = 0$ through 8 using the Cooley-Tukey algorithm. The series (4.2) was then evaluated with 9 terms and the results plotted on a Calcomp automatic plotter. An example with $\sigma = 0.4$, $M = 1.0$ and $B = 0.5$ is reproduced in Fig. 2.

6. Discussion

The example demonstrates that the estimate given by Eq. (4.2) works well for a deterministic function. The reason for this is clear if we observe that with B equal to zero in Eq. (5.4), Eq. (2.5) results from the analytic continuation of the function $J(x)$ to the infinite interval followed by the deconvolution of Eq. (1.1) with $N(x) = 0$. This can be carried out as long as $J_0(x)$ is effectively bandlimited to $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$, as was the case in the example.

If, on the other hand, the Fourier transform of $J_0(x)$ is much broader than Ω , $J_0(x)$ will normally be nearly zero outside $(-L/2, L/2)$. If data were available on the infinite interval, we would have the conditions for attempting super-resolution. We know, however, that super-resolution is frustrated by the slightest amount of noise.^{3,4,5} In the estimate given by Eq. (4.2) the resolution is limited to that allowed by the bandwidth of the spread function. [Recall section 4 and the fact that the PSWF's themselves are bandlimited to $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$] Hence for super-resolution there is nothing new.

The conclusion seems to be that although super-resolution is not possible when noise is present, extension of an image a small distance outside a finite interval is possible.

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Professor Carl W. Helstrom for his comments and criticism. Computer time was paid for in part by instruction and research funds made available by the University of California, San Diego, Computing Center and in part by NASA grant NGR-05-009-079. The author is currently supported by a NASA traineeship.

Appendix

The Spheroidal Wavefunction Expansion of Bandlimited Stationary Stochastic Processes

A stationary stochastic process $X(x)$ is bandlimited if its spectral density is non-zero only over a finite interval. Let the covariance function of the process be $K(x)$. Since

$$K(x) = \int_{-\Omega/2}^{\Omega/2} \varphi(\omega) e^{i\omega x} d\omega / 2\pi,$$

where $\varphi(\omega)$ is the spectral density of the process, $K(x)$ is a bandlimited function. Because of properties I and II of the PSWF's (Sec. 1.), the PSWF expansion¹⁶

$$K(x-x') = \underline{E} [X(x)X(x')] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(x') \Psi_n(c, x), \quad (A1)$$

where

$$\beta_n(x') = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} K(x' - x'') \Psi_n(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_n(c) \quad (A2)$$

converges in the mean of order two for $-\infty < x < \infty$ with x' fixed. For a real process $K(x-x') = K(x' - x)$. Hence we also have convergence in the

mean of order two for $-\infty < x' < \infty$ with x fixed.

Now from Eq. (1.4) the PSWF's are eigenfunctions of the Hermitian integral operator

$$Ly(x) = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2} \Omega(x-x')}{\pi(x-x')} y(x') dx', \quad -\infty < x < \infty. \quad (\text{A3})$$

Moreover, the kernel of Eq. (A3) is square integrable over the unbounded square $-\infty < x, x' < \infty$, and there exists a positive dominating constant M such that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2} \Omega(x-x')}{\pi(x-x')} \right|^2 dx \leq M \quad (\text{A4})$$

for $-\infty < x < \infty$. In fact we have strict equality in (A4) with $M = \Omega/2\pi$. We further observe that any function $z(x)$ bandlimited to $(-\frac{1}{2}\Omega, \frac{1}{2}\Omega)$ can be written

$$z(x) = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2} \Omega(x-x')}{\pi(x-x')} y(x') dx' \quad (\text{A5})$$

where y is a function square integrable over $(-L/2, L/2)$. The representation in Eq. (A5) and the Hermitian property of the operator L are sufficient to establish the pointwise convergence of the series in Eq. (A1) for $-\infty < x < \infty$ and x' fixed. The additional property, Eq. (A4), of the kernel ensures that the convergence is uniform for $-\infty < x < \infty$ and x' fixed.¹⁷

Again, from the symmetry of $K(x-x')$ the convergence is pointwise and uniform in x' as well as x .

We can now prove the following theorem.

THEOREM: The PSWF expansion of the process $X(x)$

$$\tilde{X}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \Psi_n(c, x) \quad (\text{A6})$$

where

$$a_n = \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} X(x') \Psi_n(c, x') dx' / \lambda_n(c) \quad (\text{A7})$$

converges in the mean for all x , i. e.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\left| X(x) - \sum_{n=0}^N a_n \Psi_n(c, x) \right|^2 \right] = 0 \quad \forall x \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

Proof: Let

$$\tilde{X}_N(x) = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n \Psi_n(c, x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} [|X(x) - \tilde{X}_N(x)|^2] &= \mathbb{E} [|X(x)|^2] - 2 \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} [\tilde{X}_N(x) X(x)] \\ &+ \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} [|\tilde{X}_N(x)|^2]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

Now

$$\mathbb{E} [|X(x)|^2] = K(0),$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} [\tilde{X}_N(x) X(x')] = \sum_{n=0}^N \mathbb{E} [a_n X(x')] \Psi_n(c, x).$$

(A9)

but from Eq. (A7) and Eq. (A2)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [a_n X(x')] &= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} K(x' - x'') \Psi_n(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_n(c) \\ &= \beta_n(x') \end{aligned} \quad (\text{10})$$

Using the pointwise convergence of the series in Eq. (A1)

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} [\tilde{X}_N(x) X(x)] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(x) \Psi_n(c, x) = K(0) \quad (\text{A11})$$

o evaluate the last term in Eq. (A8) consider

$$\mathbb{E} [\tilde{X}_N(x)\tilde{X}_N(x')] = \sum_{m=0}^N \sum_{n=0}^N \mathbb{E} [a_n a_m] \Psi_n(c, x) \Psi_m(c, x') \quad (\text{A12})$$

using Eq. (A7) and Eq. (A10)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [a_n a_m] &= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \mathbb{E} [a_n X(x'')] \Psi_m(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_m(c) \\ &= \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \beta_n(x'') \Psi_m(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_m(c) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A13})$$

now

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} [|\tilde{X}_N(x)|^2] &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \beta_n(x'') \Psi_m(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_m(c) \right] \Psi_n(c, x) \Psi_m(c, x) \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left[\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(x'') \Psi_n(c, x) \Psi_m(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_m(c) \right] \Psi_m(c, x) \end{aligned}$$

The interchange of summation and integration is justified by the uniform convergence of the series in Eq. (A1). By using Eq. (A2) this can be further simplified to

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left[\int_{-L/2}^{L/2} K(x-x'') \Psi_m(c, x'') dx'' / \lambda_m(c) \right] \Psi_m(c, x)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \beta_m(x) \Psi_m(c, x)$$

inally using the pointwise convergence of the series in Eq. (A1)

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} E [|\tilde{X}_N(x)|^2] = K(0) \quad (A14)$$

ow substituting Eq. (A14), Eq. (A11), and Eq. (A9) into Eq. (A8)

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} E [|X(x) - \tilde{X}_N(x)|^2] = 0 \quad \forall x \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

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ote that from Eq. (A13) the coefficients a_n are in general correlated.

Footnotes

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- . Note that Slepian and Pollak⁶ define the frequency interval $(-\Omega, \Omega)$ rather than $(-\Omega/2, \Omega/2)$ as in this paper. Hence in their formulas Ω should be replaced by $\Omega/2$. With this slight change their definitions are used directly.
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Figure Captions

- g. 1. Prolate spheroidal wave functions for $c = 8$, $n = 0, 5, 8$.
- g. 2. Geometrical image, computed data, and geometrical image estimate with $\sigma = 0.4$, $M = 1.0$, and $B = 0.5$.



